

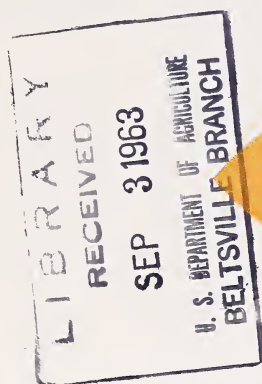
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WATCH  
FOR  
NEW

PLANT  
PESTS

# the ASIATIC RICE BORER



# The Asiatic Rice Borer

*The Asiatic rice borer<sup>1</sup> is not known to occur in the continental United States. It may get in. If it does, and if it becomes established, it will cause serious crop damage and financial loss. Watch for this insect and for any other insects you do not recognize. Report them promptly so they may be identified, controlled, and possibly eradicated.*

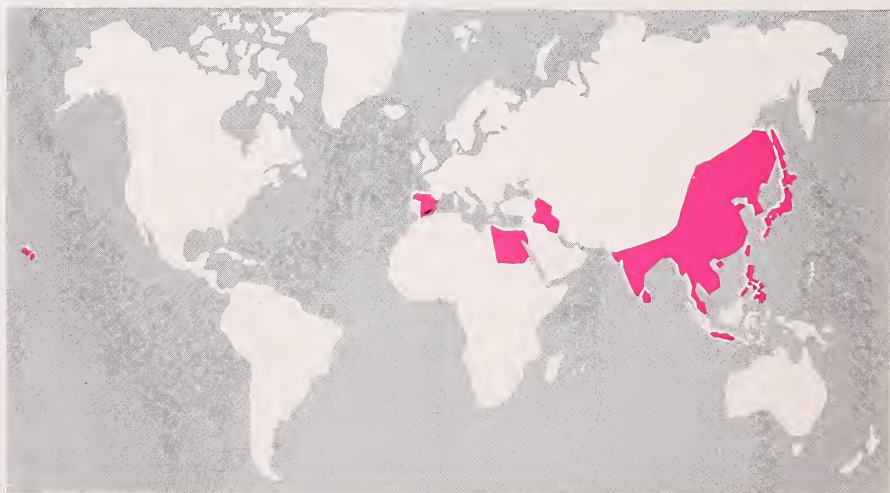
The Asiatic rice borer is a serious pest of rice in the Orient. It causes an average annual loss of 5 to 10 percent of the total rice crop, but in some areas of the Far East the loss is as high as 60 percent. This insect also causes severe damage to corn, sorghum, and sugarcane in India, Iraq, and Egypt. At one time its

damage to rice in Hawaii was so heavy that much of the land there was taken out of rice production.

In the United States, more than 1.5 million acres are in rice production; Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and California are the principal rice-producing States. In 1960, our rice production exceeded 54 million 100-pound bags. If the Asiatic rice borer should become established here and cause only a 5-percent reduction, the

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<sup>1</sup> *Chilo suppressalis*.



BN-17274

*Geographic distribution. Red areas indicate parts of the world where the Asiatic rice borer occurs.*

loss would be more than 2.7 million bags.

The pest has been intercepted at several ports of entry in this country, including some ports in the rice-producing States of California, Louisiana, and Texas. *Every precaution must be taken to keep it out.*

## DESCRIPTION OF INSECT

The larva is about 1 inch long when fully grown. Its body is dirty white and usually is marked with two longitudinal dark lines, one on each side. It is segmented, and on each segment are small spines set on dark spots. The head is black or dark brown. There is a conspicuous dark patch behind the head. The adult is a moth about one-half inch long. Its forewings are straw colored and are marked with brown or dark-colored specks.



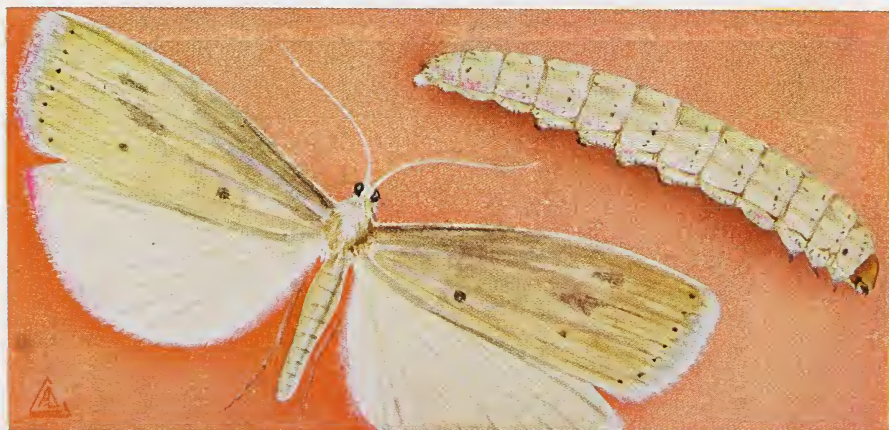
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*Asiatic rice borer damage to rice stems.*

## DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE

Damage is caused by the larvae, which attack all parts of infested plants except the roots.

Damage is characterized by dead shoots and leaves, and broken stems; it is most noticeable in the stems and stalks.



*Moth and larva of the Asiatic rice borer. Enlarged.*



## The Plant Pest Problem

At least half of our most destructive insects entered the United States from other countries, many before the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912 was passed. Today, thousands of plant pests are intercepted at our borders by plant quarantine inspectors, but some of them still gain entry.

When a new pest is detected, or-

ganized efforts are exerted to (1) pinpoint the areas where it has become established, (2) set up quarantine to prevent spread, and (3) control the pest and eradicate it if possible. The sooner a new pest is detected, the better is the chance of controlling or eradicating it before it does serious damage.

## What You Can Do

If the Asiatic rice borer should gain entry here, its larvae probably would be present at any time during the growing season. Watch for this pest in fields of rice, sorghum, corn, millet, and other cultivated or wild grasses. Withering or dying leaves on these plants, and the presence of strange larvae, may indicate that the rice borer is here.

If you find larvae or moths you do

not recognize, send specimens to your nearest agricultural official. Mail them in a small bottle containing rubbing alcohol. Include a note giving your name and address, and telling where the specimens were found and on what plant. Do not send live specimens. If your local agricultural official does not recognize the specimens, he will send them to the proper authorities for identification.



*Prepared by*  
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